

NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Wheat and Oats Production Down Barley Production Up

According to the USDA/NASS Virginia Field Office, Virginia wheat producers averaged 51 bushels per acre, down from last year's yield of 58 bushels per acre. Virginia wheat was grown on 180,000 acres, with 160,000 acres harvested for grain. Wheat production was 8,160,000 bushels, down 33 percent when compared to 2009.

Oat production for the 2010 crop year was 176,000 bushels, down 19 percent from the previous year. Twelve thousand acres were dedicated to oats with 4 thousand acres harvested for grain, no change from 2009.

Barley growers produced 3.22 million bushels of grain, up 1 percent from last year. Producers averaged 67 bushels per acre, down 7 bushels from 2009. Seventy-five thousand acres were planted in barley with 48,000 acres harvested for grain. Data for wheat, barley, and oats were based from survey of producers conducted in early September.

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US Small Grains 2010 Summary

All wheat production totaled 2.22 billion bushels in 2010, down 2 percent from the August forecast but up slightly from 2009. Grain area is 47.7 million acres, down 4 percent from last year. The United States yield is a record high 46.7 bushels per acre, 2.3 bushels higher than last year and 1.8 bushels higher than the previous record set in 2008. The levels of production and changes from last year by type are: winter wheat, 1.49 billion bushels, down 3 percent; other spring wheat, 627 million bushels, up 7 percent; Durum wheat, 111 million bushels, up 2 percent.

Oat production is estimated at a record low 81.9 million bushels, 6 percent below the August forecast and down 12 percent from last year. Yield is estimated at 64.6 bushels per acre, down 1.7 bushels from the last forecast and down 2.9 bushels from the previous year. Compared with last year, yields decreased or stayed the same for most States, with the exception of Michigan, Texas, and several States in the Northwest. Harvested area, at 1.27 million acres, is 4 percent below August and 8 percent below last year. This is the smallest acreage harvested for grain on record, continuing a steady downward trend.

Barley production is estimated at 182 million bushels, down 1 percent from the August 1 forecast and 20 percent below 2009. Average yield per acre, at 73.6 bushels, is up 1.3 bushels from August and 0.6 bushel from last year and is the highest yield on record since estimates began in 1866. Producers seeded 2.87 million acres in 2010, down 19 percent from last year. This is the lowest planted acreage on record. Harvested area, at 2.47 million acres, is down 3 percent from the August 1 forecast and down 21 percent from 2009, and the lowest level since 1882.

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